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June 10, 2002

TO: SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY, CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA
SUPERVISOR YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE
SUPERVISOR DON KNABE
SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

FROM: P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

COPPER FIRE - FINAL UPDATE

The Copper Fire in the Saugus area has consumed 23,407 acres and is currently 90 percent contained with the open line and hot spots being actively suppressed by the remaining firefighting forces. The roads that were temporarily closed during evacuation are currently open and community activities are returning to normal with most of the remaining firefighting and support resources being demobilized.

During the incident, the San Francisquito Canyon and Green Valley communities were evacuated with 2,103 occupancies being threatened. A total of 9 residences and 17 outbuildings were destroyed, and the estimated total loss from this fire is \$3.84 million. Fortunately, there were no injuries to civilians and only minor injuries to fire fighters.

The Fire Department cooperated with a number of agencies including 20 federal, state, and local fire agencies, as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control, Southern California Edison Company, Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power, Los Angeles County Road Department, Los Angeles County Building and Safety, and California Fish and Game.

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There will be a community meeting hosted by the U.S. Forest Service tonight in the Community of Green Valley that will be attended by Fire Department Chief Officers. The intent of the meeting is to share information regarding the fire suppression efforts, evacuations, road closures, and burn area rehabilitation as well as to receive input from the community.

The Fire Department is participating with the U.S. Forest Service in developing a plan to address the rehabilitation of the areas burned by this fire. This team of technical experts will address the erosion problems created by fire suppression efforts and develop a plan to minimize runoff damage to the burned areas and the communities from such things as winter rains and subsequent runoff.

If you have any questions, please call me.

PMF:dkj

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